

## New OCIO Leaders Step Up

The Library's new chief and deputy chief information officers begin their tenures.

BY SAHAR KAZMI

After six years in what Fortune magazine once called possibly the “hardest job in tech,” Bernard A. Barton Jr. begins his retirement this week. As the Library’s chief information officer (CIO), he completely overhauled the Library’s IT organizational structure, policies and infrastructure for a new generation of users.

His legacy and transformative leadership will continue forward under the Library’s new CIO, Judith Conklin, and deputy CIO, John Rutledge. Their decades of IT experience and in-depth knowledge of the agency leave them well prepared to continue the Library’s IT renaissance.

Starting in 2015, Barton provided the leadership and vision necessary to ensure that IT strategy, operations and services align with the Library’s strategic mission and service to Congress and the public. He oversaw the centralization of Library technology under the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO); fostered the creation of an agencywide digital strategy; and marshalled efforts to optimize and modernize the Library’s IT infrastructure and critical IT business systems.

“As I’ve told Congress many times, Library IT has come a long way in a very short time thanks to [its] generous support and the hard work of a very dedicated team,” said

OCIO, CONTINUED ON 5



National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

NLS’ participation in the Marrakesh Treaty already has given its patrons access to hundreds of audio and braille books in a variety of languages, including English.

## NLS Offers Hundreds of New Foreign-Language Works

An international treaty expands cross-border exchange of accessible books.

BY MARK LAYMAN

The email from the San Francisco Public Library’s Talking Books and Braille Center found its way to Kelsey Corlett-Rivera, foreign language librarian at the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS): A patron had requested a copy of Friedrich Nietzsche’s “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” – in Spanish. Could NLS help?

Corlett-Rivera found a digital audio copy of “Así habló Zaratustra” through the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). Within two weeks it was

up on BARD, the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download service.

Another satisfied NLS patron. And another success story from NLS’ participation in the Marrakesh Treaty, an international agreement that facilitates exchange of accessible books across borders by organizations that serve people who are blind, visually impaired or print disabled.

The treaty took effect in the U.S. in 2019, but it’s been only a year since NLS cleared the last legal hurdle to full participation. Yet patrons are

NLS, CONTINUED ON 7

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Gloria Dixon at [gdixon@loc.gov](mailto:gdixon@loc.gov).

Lynette Brown  
Tiffany Corley Harkins  
Stephanie Jefferson

Linda Malone  
Kenneth Mitchell

## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at [www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/](http://www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/) or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

## HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact [ocioservicedesk@loc.gov](mailto:ocioservicedesk@loc.gov) or (202) 707-7727.

## REPORT UNUSUAL COMPUTER ACTIVITY

Security Emergency: If you suspect that your Library of Congress system has been compromised or have an IT security emergency, contact [infosec@loc.gov](mailto:infosec@loc.gov) immediately.

Possible phishing attempt: Did you receive an email that you think is suspicious? Forward the email as an attachment to [infosec@loc.gov](mailto:infosec@loc.gov).

For more information, visit the [IT security website](#)

## NOT GETTING ALL-STAFF EMAILS?

Any employees who are not receiving all-staff emails should notify the Office of the Chief Information Officer at (202) 707-7727 or [ocioservicedesk@loc.gov](mailto:ocioservicedesk@loc.gov). Include your name, email address and service unit, and you will be added to the appropriate service or support-unit group email account.

## HCD SERVICES PORTAL

During this period of remote work, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

Library employees are required to attest to their COVID-19 vaccination status by Sept. 10. A vaccine certification form is available on the HCD portal at the above link.

# GAZETTE

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

**APRIL SLAYTON**  
Executive Editor

**MARK HARTSELL**  
Publications Editor

**WENDI A. MALONEY**  
Writer-Editor

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
Deanna McCray-James, calendar  
Kia Campbell, Moving On  
Lisa Davis, donated leave

**PROOFREADER**  
George Thuronyi

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
Ashley Jones

### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

Washington, DC 20540-1620

**Editorial:** Mark Hartsell, 7-9194, [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov), or Wendi Maloney, 7-0979, [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov)

**Design and production:** Ashley Jones, 7-9193, [gaze@loc.gov](mailto:gaze@loc.gov)  
ISSN 1049-8184

Printed by the Printing Management Section

### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Sept. 24 Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 15.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# Library Releases Data for Free Download, Discovery

The Library of Congress last week announced the third release of records in its online catalog for free bulk download for research and discovery. The release supports the Library's effort to continuously expand open access to its vast collections.

This MARC release surpasses previous releases and adds more than 200,000 new records to the existing 25 million record database.

Releases of MARC data uniquely exhibit the Library's mission. They enable researchers to engage with the unparalleled and rich source metadata at the Library, inspire discovery of Library collections and provide resources to inform future discovery within the Library and data communities.

The data covers a wide range of Library items including books, serials, computer files, manuscripts, cartographic materials, music, sound recordings and visual materials. Each record provides standardized information about an item, including its title, author, publication date, subject, genre, related names, summary and other notes.

The unabridged records are easily accessible through the [Library's Selected Datasets Collection](#) in XML and UTF8 formats. Direct access to each data set is [available here](#).

Staff from the Library's Digital Strategy, Digital Content Management and Cataloging Distribution Service collaborated on this data release. The records are the gold standard for bibliographic data and a treasure trove of information that can be used far beyond cataloging.

Previous releases have been used by data analysts, developers, statisticians and social scientists for study, collaboration and experimentation. ■

# Library Launches Network for Alumni

New program will help former employees, interns and scholars stay connected.

The Library of Congress today is launching a new outreach program designed to help former Library employees, interns and scholars stay connected to the institution and to each other.

The program, called the Library of Congress Alumni Network, will provide members regular updates about Library news, access to its publications, invitations to events and opportunities to volunteer. The program is open to all former staff, retirees, interns and scholars.

"No matter if you were a summer intern, spent a small part – or decades – of your career at the Library or were a scholar in residence, you are a member of the Library community," said Mark Sweeney, the principal deputy Librarian of Congress. "We value your contributions as caretakers, curators, protectors, administrators, creators and storytellers. Your contributions built the foundation that helps the Library connect with Congress and the American people every day."

Network members will receive electronic versions of the Gazette and the Library of Congress Magazine and a discount at the Library of Congress shop.

They will also receive invitations to events such as exhibition openings and the Junior Fellows display day, where they can reconnect with Library staff and with each other. In addition, the Library will offer volunteer opportunities specially tailored for alumni.

Beginning Sept. 10, eligible persons who are leaving employment at the Library will have an opportunity to sign up for the program through the Human Capital Directorate's online separation process. Others who already have left the Library can join from the [Library's Engage page](#) on the website.

"I invite all staff to help spread the

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ALUMNI NETWORK



The new program for alumni is open to all former staff, retirees, interns and scholars.

word about joining the alumni network," Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said. "It is exciting to welcome alumni back to the Library – in person or virtually – to engage with our diverse community."

Said Joe Cappello, the chief human capital officer: "This group represents an extraordinarily talented and largely untapped resource, who will be wonderful informal mentors to current employees as well as terrific ambassadors representing the best of this great institution."

A team with representatives across the Library is involved in launching the alumni network, and input from members will shape future alumni programs.

Information about the network and about joining is [available here](#).

"We are fortunate that our alumni are deeply engaged while with us," said Kimberly Powell, chief of talent recruitment and outreach. "They are genuinely interested in an enduring relationship beyond their tenure at the Library. Great to reconnect with them via this new program."

Questions? Contact [alumni@loc.gov](mailto:alumni@loc.gov). ■

## QUESTION & ANSWER



Zoe Valery

### Khatchig Mouradian

*Khatchig Mouradian is the Armenian and Georgian area specialist in the African and Middle East Division (AMED).*

#### Tell us about your background.

I was born in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War (1975–90) to children of Armenian genocide survivors. Much darkness may be packed into that sentence, but I have fond memories of my childhood. My parents had barely completed middle school, but they nurtured the bibliophile in me and made every sacrifice so that my sisters and I could receive a higher education.

My path through schooling and education has been meandering: I majored in biology, then pursued a master's degree in clinical psychology while working as a journalist.

Receiving a job offer as a newspaper editor, I moved to the U.S. in 2007. I completed my Ph.D. in history in 2016, juggling my full-time duties as editor and a part-time job at two universities as adjunct

professor. I started teaching at Columbia University in 2017, first as a visiting professor, then as a full-time lecturer. (I still teach one course a semester there as an adjunct professor.)

#### What brought you to the Library?

Books and service. I am an “ambivert.” For as long as I can remember, my introversion has led me to books, my extroversion to serving communities. My job at the Library allows me to have my cake and eat it, too.

As the Armenian and Georgian area specialist in AMED, I recommend new acquisitions, provide reference assistance to researchers, prepare research guides, write essays about our collections, organize events and symposia and engage in public outreach. My predecessor, Levon Avdoyan, set a high bar. I strive to build on his accomplishments.

#### What are some of your standout projects?

Since joining the Library in January, I have been focusing on expanding the Armenian and Georgian collections and making them discoverable and accessible. We recently secured a major donation of 5,000 books, which three volunteers are preparing for cataloging.

I am also writing a series of posts for the Library's Four Corners of the World blog about translated fiction – the first of which is on

translations of the Persian epic Shahnameh to Armenian and Georgian.

#### What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I always make time for hiking, kayaking, chess and – surprise! – books. I recently read Brit Bennett's “The Vanishing Half” and Kazuo Ishiguro's “Klara and the Sun,” and I am now engrossed in the manuscript of Chris Bohjalian's forthcoming novel, “The Lioness.”

And then there's my own research and writing. A colleague and I are co-editing a volume titled “Handbook of the Late Ottoman Empire: History and Legacy.” I am also working on my next monograph about two sisters who served as midwives in Aintab (modern-day Gaziantep) and Aleppo in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

#### What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

English is my fourth language. Through no particular effort of my own, I learned Armenian from my parents, Turkish from my grandparents and Arabic from neighbors long before we started to learn English in primary school.

I also have a spectacularly poor sense of direction. It will probably take me a few years to make it to the Armenian collections in the stacks without making one or two wrong turns. ■

Limited Time **ONLY**  
Back-to-**SCHOOL** or **ANYTHING LOAN!**

as low as **5.5%** APR\* **APPLY TODAY!**

For **any** reason, whatever you can dream of! Up to \$5,000 & 2 year terms.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Better BANKING for Less

**202.707.5852**  
**LCFCU.org**

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Back-to-School/Anything/Lifestyle Loan **ENDS 9/30/21** and may be withdrawn without notice. Refinancing of existing LCFCU loans is not permitted. No Discounts apply to the Loan Special rate. Subject to credit approval and other restrictions may apply, contact us or visit LCFCU.org for details.

## OCIO, CONTINUED FROM 1

Barton. “I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished, and I know Judith and John will be a strong team for OCIO and the entire Library of Congress moving forward.”

As deputy CIO, Conklin worked seamlessly with Barton to direct IT operations and streamline the complex Library IT ecosystem. Together, they led OCIO to complete over 350 recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office and the Library’s Office of the Inspector General to improve Library technology management and IT delivery and security.

Conklin, who has more than 24 years of experience at the Library, is a firm believer in the importance of a collaborative IT service model. She has overseen the ongoing transition toward IT service management and technology business management – two industry best-practice models for making delivery of IT services and management of IT resources more transparent and user-centric.

As the Library’s first director of IT partner engagement, and former CIO of the Congressional Research Service, Rutledge has also strived to cultivate coordination across service units. Under his leadership, the Library’s end-user support, project management and customer liaison teams have helped deliver daily IT services for over 3,600 Library users and guided over 230 IT projects to successful conclusions.

This work has already returned huge dividends for the Library. Since 2015, over 135 new IT systems and applications have been put into production. Hundreds of new online collections, with millions of digital items, have been added to loc.gov. And legacy sites have been retired or rebuilt to provide users with modern, accessible and enhanced experiences.

Library technology is now in better shape than ever before. Centralization has provided a holistic view of Library IT systems and



Judith Conklin

infrastructure, allowing life-cycle planning and maintenance. IT security has also been significantly strengthened, with over 1,600 vulnerabilities closed and stringent controls implemented to protect the Library network. And a comprehensive IT business continuity disaster and recovery program has been established.

“A lot of work has gone into redesigning and rebuilding the Library’s technology infrastructure and support mechanisms over the last six years. That work isn’t always flashy, but it’s the foundation that will let us continue to grow and evolve for years to come,” said Conklin.

Conklin and Rutledge intend to sustain this preparedness in their new roles. With a forward-looking digital strategy, IT investments aligned to Library strategic plans, rapidly maturing IT management processes and an institutional focus on IT security and user experience, the Library is better equipped to adapt to a rapidly changing IT landscape and provide users with more enduring access to its collections.



John Rutledge

In fact, the last 18 months have proved a litmus test for IT at the Library. With little warning, the Library was able to transition from routine on-site operations to maximum telework. OCIO sustained an 800 percent surge in use of the Library’s IT infrastructure while supporting thousands of staff in a remote work environment and continuing to develop new digital resources.

“The level of technical agility we’ve shown during the pandemic could not have been possible without the transformative accomplishments of the last six years,” said Rutledge.

As Conklin and Rutledge step up, they do so in an institution now fundamentally different from the one Barton joined in 2015.

“OCIO staff have worked diligently to create a stable and scalable IT foundation for the Library’s future, and we’re eager to take on the challenges and opportunities ahead of us to continue to provide the best possible technology experiences to our colleagues, Congress and the American people,” said Conklin. ■

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at  
[www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/)**

## OBITUARY



### John Celli

John Celli, a former Library of Congress division chief who retired in 2007, died in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 7.

Celli joined the Library in 1980 after earning a doctorate in British literature. During his Library career, he served as chief developer of bibliographic products in the Cat-

aloging Distribution Service, which distributes the Library's cataloging data to OCLC and other customers in the information services community for the benefit of more than 100,000 libraries.

In 1991, he became chief of the Cataloging in Publication Division (CIP) in the former Cataloging Directorate, now the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate. As chief of CIP, he led the transition of the program from receiving about 1,000 paper galleys each week to an online system that moves electronic manuscripts through the cataloging pipeline neatly and securely, providing catalog records in advance of publication for about 50,000 books and e-books published in the U.S. each year.

Celli also introduced publisher-supplied summaries in CIP cat-

alog records, began the conversion of publishers' ONIX data into Library catalog records and established the ECIP Cataloging Partners Program, which enables libraries to contribute CIP cataloging for publications of their institutions' university presses and other publications in their areas of unique expertise.

After retiring from the Library in March 2007, Celli worked with the Library and Education Assistance Foundation for Vietnam, making numerous trips to advise Vietnamese librarians and universities, particularly on subject cataloging. He studied the Vietnamese language and sponsored a student, Nghi Le, whom he considered part of his family.

Celli is survived by his partner, Esther Mackintosh, and his two brothers and their families. ■

## NEWS

### Some Reading Rooms Resume Saturday Hours

Starting on Sept. 11, some Library reading rooms will resume limited Saturday hours for research.

The Law Library, the Microform and Electronic Resources Center, the Main Reading Room and the Manuscripts, Newspaper and Current Periodical and Performing Arts reading rooms will open for Saturday appointments between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and between 1 and 4 p.m. During these hours, the Science and Business reading rooms will be remotely serviced from the Main Reading Room.

Everyone, including Library staff members, who seek to use a reading room must make an appointment. Appointments can be made through [Ask a Librarian](#) or by calling the reading rooms directly. ■

### PRESERVATION TEAM SAFEGUARDS COLLECTIONS



Dan Paterson of the Conservation Division assesses a book for damage during pandemic building closures. [Read about](#) the efforts of the Preservation Emergency Response Team to protect collections from harm while storage spaces remained unoccupied.

Jennifer Lewis

## NLS, CONTINUED FROM 1

already reaping big benefits.

More than 1,000 titles obtained under the treaty have been added to BARD in languages including Arabic, French, German, Greek, Polish, Spanish and Vietnamese. Patrons have downloaded those titles nearly 20,000 times as of this week.

NLS has reciprocated by sharing its collection with Canada's Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), the United Kingdom's Royal National Institute of Blind People, Germany's Deutsches Zentrum für barrierefreies Lesen and Chile's Música y Braille. NLS has also uploaded tens of thousands of audio and braille books to the ABC Global Book Service, making them available to organizations that serve blind and print disabled readers in more than 50 countries.

The road to NLS' full participation in the Marrakesh Treaty was a long one. The treaty was finalized at a conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 2013; the U.S. signed it the following October. The Senate ratified the treaty in June 2018 and simultaneously passed the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act to amend U.S. law in accordance with the treaty. The House of Representatives quickly followed suit, and President Trump signed the legislation that fall.

After the treaty entered into force in the U.S. in May 2019, further legislative changes were needed before NLS could fully participate. Those came in the Library of Congress Technical Corrections Act of 2019 and finally, in July 2020, an amendment to Library of Congress regulations to conform to the legislative change.

[The treaty](#) is one of 26 international copyright treaties administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It aims to address what advocates call a worldwide "famine" of accessible books. According to WIPO, fewer than 7 percent of the millions of books published each year are available in acces-

sible formats for the 285 million people in the world who are blind, visually impaired or print disabled – 90 percent of whom live in developing countries.

"NLS has one of the largest collections of accessible books in the world, so sharing it with other countries is making a tremendous difference," Corlett-Rivera said. NLS books have already been downloaded more than 4,700 times by 34 different organizations around the world.

But NLS' participation in the treaty is making a difference for its own patrons, too.

"It allows us to acquire foreign language titles faster – and at less cost – than if we recorded them ourselves," Corlett-Rivera said. "It also helps us expand our collection to meet the changing demographics of our patrons."

Most of NLS' foreign language books are in Spanish, but it also has patrons who speak Tagalog/Filipino, Vietnamese, Russian, Haitian Creole, Arabic and many other languages.

"As we increase the size of our collections in these languages, we can increase outreach and, long term, increase the number of foreign language-speaking NLS patrons, while better serving our current foreign-language speakers," she said.

And it's not just foreign language-speaking patrons who benefit from NLS' participation in the Marrakesh Treaty. So far, 150 audiobooks in English have been added to the collection, courtesy of Canada's CELA. They've been downloaded by NLS patrons more than 11,000 times.

The top 10 includes three titles from a series by Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould: "The Amish Midwife," "The Amish Nanny" and "The Amish Bride," confirming for Corlett-Rivera and her colleagues in the Collection Development Section that "there is no such thing as too many Amish romances in your collection."

NLS patrons can also access 195

braille titles in English from CELA. There are plans to add hundreds more titles in English from CELA in both audio and braille.

Full participation in the Marrakesh Treaty came with some challenges – technical as well as bibliographic. For example, audiobooks acquired from foreign partners often are coded in a different digital format than NLS uses, so NLS created a new conversion tool to access that content.

Staff also developed processes by which Marrakesh titles can be selected in a systematic fashion, according to what patrons most want to read. In addition, staff developed new cataloging standards that are accessible and succinct while being helpfully descriptive.

Of course, all this effort is for naught if patrons can't find the new foreign-language titles. Toward that end, NLS recently added a "search by language" function to BARD. And the first issue of NLS' new ["Foreign Language Quarterly"](#) debuted online this month, highlighting popular titles recently added to the collection via the Marrakesh Treaty, as well as foreign-language titles produced by NLS.

"The implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty has brought together people working in almost every part of NLS – from technical experts handling format conversion issues to foreign-language catalogers wading through diacritics in Voyager to developers customizing BARD to ensure that patrons can find the amazing selection of books we've added to the collection," said Corlett-Rivera, who came to NLS last summer after working as a librarian at the University of Maryland. "I feel like I joined NLS at exactly the right time and can see almost immediate benefits for our patrons." ■